

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**15 JULY 2020**

**Present:**

Councillors Keeling (Chairman), Haines, Nuttall, Peart and L Petherick (Vice-Chair)

**Members in Attendance:**

Councillors Daws and Mullone

**Apologies:**

Councillor Bullivant and Dowding (non-voting)

**Officers in Attendance:**

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer to the Council

**Also in Attendance:**

Independents Persons – Mr Barnicott and Ms Smith  
Investigator – Mr Darsley

**9. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Bullivant gave his apologies as he had a personal interest.

**10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**11. STANDARDS INVESTIGATION**

The Committee considered the published report in line with the procedure set out in the agenda.

Attached is the You Tube stream of the meeting - [Standards Committee 15 July 2020](#)

The Committee resolved to go into confidential session to consider the Investigator's recommendations regarding the alleged breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct.

**RESOLVED:**

Having made a finding of facts as set out in its Decision Notice, the Committee concludes that Cllr Daws breached the Members' Code of Conduct as provided for in the Decision Notice and that

- (a) The Decision Notice be published to publicly censure Cllr Daws's conduct
- (b) It be noted that if the Committee had the power to suspend Cllr Daws from being a councillor (a power which was previously available to councils and may be reintroduced in the future), the Committee would have suspended Cllr Daws
- (c) Cllr Daws is requested to write within 10 working days of this decision being notified to him, an unequivocal letter of apology (the content of such to be approved in advance by the Monitoring Officer and Chairman of Standards Committee) to those officers to whom the Committee has found he was disrespectful
- (d) The Committee sends a letter to all staff within the Council making it clear that the Council will not tolerate disrespectful conduct by councillors towards staff

AND

**RECOMMENDS to Full Council** that the requirement that a failure to comply with relevant protocols and security arrangements be formally confirmed with reference to new provisions in the Code.

### ***Report of Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman***

*Following its investigation into a complaint by Cllr Richard Daws about Teignbridge District Council, the Ombudsman found fault on the part of the Council which had caused injustice to the complainant.*

*As a result, The Standards Committee decision notice upholding the complaint that Councillor Daws breached the Code of Conduct has been withdrawn.*

[A copy of the Ombudsman's Report is available.](#)

The meeting started at 10.32 am and finished at 12.17 pm.

Chairman